Appl. No. 09/851,293 Amdt. dated November 20, 2003 Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A chassis measuring apparatus for a vehicle, including a vehicle lift platform for reversibly lifting a vehicle to be measured,

a lifting drive for the vehicle lift platform,

an axle measuring unit for measuring parameters of an axle of the vehicle,

an axle measurement lifting device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform, the axle measurement lifting device for reversibly lifting the axle measuring unit, the axle measurement lifting device comprising at least first and second lifting stages,

means for actuating the lifting stages reversibly independently of each other,
a lifting drive for the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device, and
means for a synchronous displacement of the lifting drive for the vehicle lift platform and
of the lifting drive for the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device.

2. (Previously Presented) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the axle measurement unit is arranged on the first lifting stage.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 1 including

a lifting drive for the first lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device, and means for reversibly actuating the lifting drive for the first lifting stage independently of the drives of the second lifting stage and the vehicle lift platform.

5. (Previously Presented) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein the drives of the vehicle lift platform and at least the second lifting-stage of the axle measurement lifting device each comprise at least one respective piston-cylinder unit.

- 6. (Original) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 5 including means connecting the piston-cylinder unit of the vehicle lift platform in series with the piston-cylinder unit of the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device for synchronous lifting to the same heightwise level.
- 7. (Original) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 4 wherein the drive of the first lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device comprises at least one piston-cylinder unit.
- 8. (Original) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of the vehicle lift platform and the first lifting stage and the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device is in the form of a scissors platform.
- 9. (Original) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 1 including a common foundation for supporting the vehicle lift platform and the axle measurement lifting device, the foundation having at least one recess for the axle measurement lifting device into which the axle measurement lifting device is lowerable in an inoperative condition thereof so that it aligns at least with the upper level of a trackway of the vehicle lift platform in its lowered condition.
- 10. (Original) A chassis measuring apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein the top of the axle measurement lifting device is provided with a plate adapted to at least approximately close off the recess in the foundation.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A method of chassis measurement of a vehicle with a chassis measuring apparatus which comprises a vehicle lift platform with which a vehicle to be measured can be reversibly lifted and an axle measurement lifting device adjacent an end of the vehicle lift platform, wherein the axle measurement lifting device is operable to reversibly lift an axle measuring device, the method comprising:

carrying out a measuring operation after the vehicle to be measured has been driven on to the vehicle lift platform and after aligning an axle measuring unit of the axle measurement lifting device with a portion of the vehicle by vertically displacing the axle measurement lifting device by a first lifting stage,

lifting the vehicle with the vehicle lift platform when a necessary chassis adjustment is detected by the measuring operation, and

when the vehicle lift platform is raised, following the movement of the vehicle lift platform with the axle measuring unit by means of a second lifting stage, wherein the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device is raised synchronously with the vehicle lift platform.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 11

wherein the drive of the first and the second lifting stages of the axle measurement lifting device and the drive of the vehicle lift platform are supplied from the same energy source.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 11

wherein the axle measurement lifting device can be lowered in an inoperative condition thereof into a recess in a foundation of the chassis measuring apparatus in such a way that the upper end of the axle measurement lifting device is at least substantially aligned with the support surface for the vehicle to be measured when the vehicle lift platform is lowered.

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle chassis measuring apparatus comprising:

a vehicle lift platform,

an axle measuring unit,

an assembly to synchronously lift the vehicle lift platform and the axle measuring unit,

an axle measurement unit lifting device to move the axle measuring unit independently of and relative to the vehicle lift platform for reversibly lifting the axle measuring unit, the axle measurement unit lifting device comprising at least first and second lifting stages, and means for actuating the at least first and second lifting stages reversibly and independently of each other.

Appl. No. 09/851,293 Amdt. dated November 20, 2003 Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2003

- 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the axle measurement unit lifting device comprises a lifting drive for a the first lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the assembly comprises a lifting drive for the vehicle lift platform and a lifting drive for a the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device.
- 18. (Previously Presented) A method of chassis measurement of a vehicle, the method comprising:

positioning a vehicle on a vehicle lift platform;
adjusting a chassis measuring unit to measure a portion of a vehicle chassis;
detecting a necessary chassis adjustment by the measuring and, in response,
raising the vehicle lift platform and synchronously raising the chassis measuring unit.